



## Memorandum

**Date:** March 31, 2009

**To:** Dee Atkinson, Research Division  
Richard Bostic, Fiscal Research Division

**From:** Charlie Nelms  
Chancellor, NCCU

**Subject:** Closing the Achievement Gap

During the 2008 Legislative Session, a special provision in Section 9.3 of House Bill 2436, the 2008 Appropriation Act (S.L. 2008-107), directed North Carolina Central University to report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and to the Fiscal Research Division by April 1, 2009. The attached report provides detailed information on the grants awarded through the "Closing the Achievement Gap" funds.

Funds appropriated by House Bill 2436 for the 2008-09 fiscal year to the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina to be used for the North Carolina Historically Minority Colleges and Universities (HMCUC) initiative for "Closing the Achievement Gap" were used to pay administrative costs, for the overall operations of the Initiative, and for educational and instructional needs of programs which implemented the terms and regulations of the grant. In keeping with the terms of the funding that no more than fifteen percent (15%) of the \$550,000 or \$82,500, be used for administering the grant and at least eighty-five percent or \$467,500 be used to provide grants to participating public and private institutions of higher education identified as historically minority colleges, costs are provided. The actual cost of administering the grants was fourteen percent (14%) or \$73,236 and eighty-six percent (86%) or \$476,764 of the funds were used to provide grants to eight public and private institutions of higher education whose staff worked to develop and administer after-school programs designed to close the achievement gap and improve the academic performance of youth at-risk of academic failure and school dropout. While in previous years, funds were allocated to community and faith based organizations for their work to implement programs (after-school programs and tutorial sessions) to assist in closing the achievement gap, in FY 2008-2009, funds were not allocated for this purpose. Since the 2004 allocation from the state of North Carolina, HMCUC funds have served more than 7,147 students and provided training for 1,458 parents. On average, 81% of

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the students increased their reading scale scores, and 71% increased their mathematics scale scores. Seventy-seven percent (77%) of the students tutored in reading passed their end-of-grade test, and students participating in the Learn and Serve programs performed 46,446 hours of service in their communities. The Initiative on "Closing the Achievement Gap," through its programs, is working to change lives of families by developing learning tools essential to successful academic achievement.

Please let us know if you require further information.

Enclosure: Report

Historically Minority Colleges and Universities Consortium

*Uniting Communities to Close the Achievement Gap*

c: President Erskine Bowles  
Vice President Harold Martin  
Vice President Rob Nelson